11: Johnson H-4,5 (no date) 1930
(1525-ca. 1880)
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000 death rate for the whites in Philadelphia from 1831 to 1840 was 23.2 per 1,000 and for the blacks 32.3 per 1,000.[84]

567 163 165 The data available showing the ratio of births to deaths in the slave population of the sea-island region are likewise meager. Henry A. Middleton, Jr.'s, Weehaw Plantation Book records the births and deaths on his plantation from 1845 to 1860, as follows:

BIRTHS AND DEATHS ON WEEHAW PLANTATION, 1845-1860[85]

Year	Births	Deaths	Increase	Decrease
1845	21	24	..	3
1846	17	20	..	3
1847	28	16	12	..
1848	21	25	..	4
1849	22	20	2	..
1850	26	9	17	..
1851	18	19	..	1
1852	25	20	5	..
1853	29	22	7	..
1854	24	20	4	4
1855	25	59	..	34
1856	27	11	15	..
1857	22	40	..	18
1858	28	14	14	..
1859	20	18	2	..
1860	31	20	11	..
Total	384	357		

Beginning in 1845 with approximately 252, the slave population of Weehaw plantation showed after sixteen years an increase of births over deaths of 27, giving an increase of 10.7 per cent in the slave population. The number of deaths was highest in 1855 when an epidemic of whooping cough and measles among the children brought the number up to 59 and lowest in 1850 when

[84] *Ibid.*

[85] The high death rate is probably accounted for by the fact that planters usually included stillbirths in the numbers of deaths.

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only nine died. The number of births was greatest in 1860 with thirty-one and lowest in 1846 with only seventeen.

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Some idea of the child-bearing period of the slave women on St. Helena Island may be obtained from records in the John E. Fripp papers. One record gives a list of births from 1802 to 1860. Of the twenty women whose child-bearing records seem to have been complete, two women had ten children each; one, nine children; two, eight children; three, seven children; one, five children; four, four children; four, three children; and three, two children. It is possible to ascertain from the records at what age ten of these women first bore a child. Die, who was the youngest mother in the group, was fifteen when her first child was born; Jenny was seventeen; Daphney, eighteen; Jane, Judy, Matilda, Olive, and Martha, nineteen; Doll, twenty; and Hetty, twenty-two. Four of Hetty's ten children died in infancy as did four of Olive's eight children. The others lost from one to two children each.

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PLANTATION PROFITS AND LOSSES

James Hamilton Couper, who administered the James Hamilton estate for forty years, often said that the estate realized a higher percentage of profit on an investment in Schuykill River bonds issued by the city of Philadelphia than it did upon an investment in 600 slaves and 1,500 acres of Georgia seacoast farming land.[66] Data for a tract of 800 acres of this estate raising sea-island cotton have been preserved as follows: